PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.:

Not yet assigned - 371 of PCT/EP2003/006371

International

Filing Date:

17 June 2003 (17.06.2003)

Applicant:

SPETHER, Karl-Heinz

Title:

CLOSING CONE

Attorney Docket:

2693-009/NP

Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. <u>LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS, AND OTHER INFORMATION</u>

The patents, publications and other information requested to be considered by the Office (except unpublished U.S. patent applications) are listed on Form 1449 attached hereto.

II. COPIES

A		Subn	nitted	herewi	th is	a leg	jible d	сору	of (i)	each	U.S.	patent
appli	catic	n pub	licatio	n and	U.S. a	and fo	reign	paten	t; (ii)	each p	oublica	ıtion or
that	port	ion wl	hich d	caused	it to	be lis	sted;	(iii) fo	or ead	ch cros	ss-refe	renced
pend	ling	U.S.	appli	cation	listed	belo	w in	Sec	tion	IV, the	e app	lication
spec	ificat	tion in	cludin	g the c	laims,	and a	any dr	rawing	g of th	ne appl	ication	ı which
caus	ed it	to be	listed	includi	ng the	claim	s dire	cted t	to tha	t portio	n; and	(iv) all
othe	r info	rmatic	n or th	nat port	ion wh	ich, ca	used	it to b	e liste	d.		

B. ____ Any patents, publications or other information which are listed on Form 1449 or on the copies of PTO-892, but which are not enclosed herewith, were previously cited by or submitted to the PTO in one of the following applications which has been relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120:

U.S. Serial Number

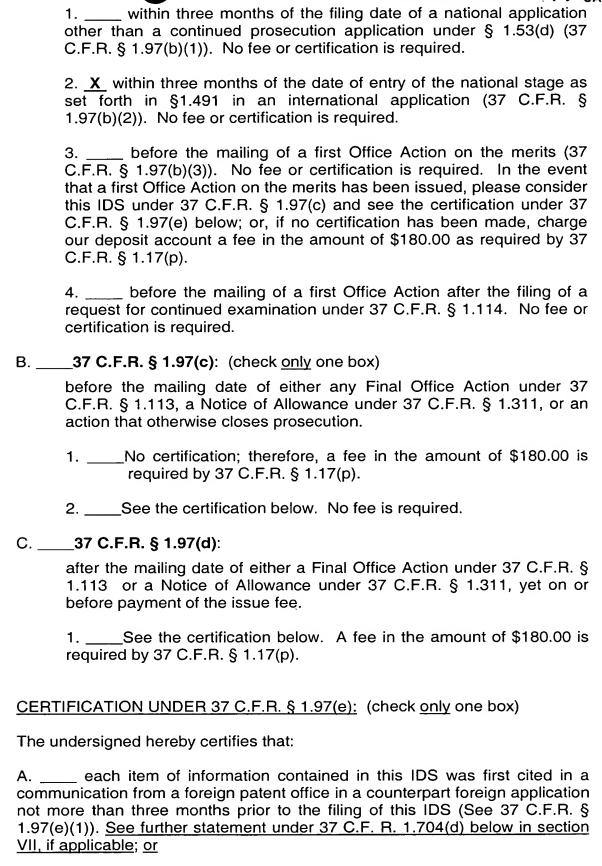
U.S. Filing Date

- C. X Because the present application was/is being filed after June 30, 2003, no copies of the U.S. patents or U.S. patent application publications which are listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed pursuant to the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i). Any foreign patent documents or non-patent literature listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.
- D. X This is a PCT application in the entry of the National Phase in the United States. A copy of the International Search Report is attached for the Examiner's information. The documents listed on the International Search Report are listed on the attached Form-1449 for consideration by the Examiner and for listing on any patent resulting from this application. If the International Search Report was from the US, EPO, or JPO search authorities, copies of these references should have been supplied to the USPTO under the trilateral agreement and are believed to be in the file of the above-identified application. (MPEP 1893.03(g))

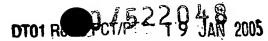
III.	CONCISE EXPLANATION OF T	HE RELEVANCE (check at	least one box)			
	A Except as may be in publications or other information explanation not required).					
	B. X A concise explanation of other information listed that is n 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)):	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	•			
	counterpart foreign PCT/EP2003/00637	foreign patent office comr application: International 3 1. s are provided, as noted on	Search Report for			
	CThe following additional consideration.	I information is provided f	or the Examiner's			
IV.	CROSS REFERENCE TO RELA	TED APPLICATION(S)				
	AThe Examiner is advised that the following co-pending application contain(s) subject matter that may be related to the present application. It bringing this(these) application(s) to the Examiner's attention, Applicant does(do) not waive the confidentiality provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122.					
	Serial No.	Filing Date	Art Unit			

THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER

V.



VI.



B no item of information contain	ned in this IDS was cited in a
communication from a foreign patent	office in a counterpart foreign
application, and, to the knowledge of	
reasonable inquiry, no item of information	contained in this IDS was known to
any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.	• •
to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.9	7(e)(2)).

C. ____Some of the items of information were first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office. As to this information, the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

VII. STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)

The undersigned hereby states that:

each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this IDS.

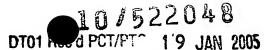
VIII. PAYMENT OF FEES (check only one box)

A. ____ A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed for the above-identified fee.

B. ____Please charge Deposit Account No. 08-0750 in the amount of \$180.00 for the above-indicated fee. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

The above references are being cited only in the interest of candor and without any admission that they constitute statutory prior art, contain matter which anticipates the invention, or which would render the same obvious, either singly or in combination, to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Furthermore, this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made.

If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule (with a petition if necessary) and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.



Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 19, 2005

By: Ryan P. MCCARTHY

Reg. No. 50,636

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C. P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303 (248) 641-1600

RPM/smc

FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449)

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

	10 /E220 A
ATTORNEY DOCKET No.	SERIAL NO.
2693-009/NP	
APPLICANT	
SPETHER, Karl-Heinz	
FILING DATE	GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/ Subclass	(If appropriate) Filing Date	
1.		2,106,365 A	01/25/1938	Tiano			
2.		4,309,859 A	01/12/1982	Schindel			
3.		3,984,965 A	10/12/1976	Sonnenberg			
4.		1,773,259 A	08/19/1930	Cundall			
5.		4,756,137 A	07/12/1988	Lanigan			
6.		3,303,633 A	02/14/1967	Wilhere			
7.		5,417,031 A	05/23/1995	Bankuty et al.			
8.		2,684,141	07/20/1954	Pim			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Country	Class/ Subclass	Translation Yes	No
1.		784 257 A	10/09/1957	GB			
2.		35 38 971 C2	05/14/1987	DE		Abstract	
3.		39 12 324 A1	10/25/1990	DE		Abstract	
4.		100 58 225 A1	05/29/2002	DE		Abstract	
5.		687 759 A5	02/14/1997	СН			X

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)						
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials					
1.		International Search Report for PCT/EP2003/006371; ISA/EP; Mailed: 10/13/2003				

Examiner:	Date Considered:	